

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 39-46 are currently pending in the application. Claims 47-62 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has indicated that claims 41, 45 and 46 would be allowable if placed in independent form.

By this Amendment, claims 41, 45 and 46 have been amended to place them in independent form; and claims 39, 40, 42-44 and 47-62 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 41, 45 and 46 would be pending. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment are requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 39, 40, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ashida (U.S. Patent No. 6,833,864, hereafter "Ashida"). Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashida in view of Vilieside (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,145, hereinafter Vilieside).

Claims 39, 40 and 42-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4408US1

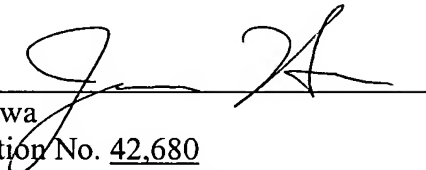
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4408US1

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: _____

1/18/06

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